

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 277166
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:LPFEIFLE:CFC

APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB

ARA:TATODMAN

ARA:SASHELTON

ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS

ARA/AND:DCOX

S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH

:SGOLDSMITH

-----048148 182320Z /62

O R 182048Z NOV 77 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T STATE 277166

NODIS

FOR THE CHARGE FROM HABIB

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PBOR, GT, UK, BH

SUBJECT: BELIZE NEGOTIATIONS

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE BRITISH AND GUATEMALANS
MAY BE NEAR AN AGREEMENT ON BELIZE WHICH INVOLVES A
MINOR TERRITORIAL CESSION TO GUATEMALA. THE BRITISH
INFORMED US THAT PRICE, ON THE BASIS OF A RECENT CON-
VERSATION WITH PANAMA'S TORRIJOS, BELIEVES THAT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 277166

BELIZE COULD GET A BETTER SETTLEMENT FROM THE NEXT
GUATEMALAN ADMINISTRATION. PRICE ALSO SAID OTHER
LATINS WOULD NOT APPROVE A SETTLEMENT INVOLVING
A CESSION. THE BRITISH, WITH PRICE'S ACQUIESCENCE,
WILL BE SOUNDING OUT THE KEY LATINS AS TO THEIR VIEWS
OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT INVOLVING A MINOR
TERRITORIAL CESSION.

2. WE BELIEVE THERE IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY NOW TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE. GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT LAUGERUD IS A MODERATE, AND COMMITTED TO SETTLING THE BELIZE DISPUTE BEFORE LEAVING OFFICE JULY 1. IN OUR OPINION NONE OF THE THREE CANDIDATES TO SUCCEED HIM WOULD BE WILLING OR ABLE TO AGREE TO A SETTLEMENT MORE FAVORABLE TO BELIZE THAN LAUGERUD. IT WOULD ALSO BE VERY USEFUL IF THE COLOMBIANS COULD CONVEY TO PRICE THAT HE HAS

THE OPPORTUNITY NOW TO OBTAIN INDEPENDENCE ON TERMS MORE FAVORABLE THAN POSSIBLE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.

3. AFTER COORDINATING WITH THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR, PLEASE SEE FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO-AGUIRRE AT HIS EARLIEST CONVENIENCE AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- WE UNDERSTAND THE BRITISH AND GUATEMALANS MAY BE NEAR A SETTLEMENT ON BELIZE INVOLVING A MINOR CESSION OF TERRITORY TO GUATEMALA.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT THE CHANCES OF ARRIVING AT A SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD GIVE BELIZE SELF-DETERMINATION ARE GREATER NOW THAN THEY WILL BE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT LAUGERUD HAS ADOPTED A MODERATE POSITION AND IS COMMITTED TO RESOLVING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 277166

THE ISSUE BEFORE HE LEAVES OFFICE JULY 1. NONE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES WOULD BE WILLING OR ABLE TO AGREE TO A SETTLEMENT AS FAVORABLE TO BELIZE AS LAUGERUD. TWO, PERALTA AZURDIA AND LUCAS, ARE HARD-LINERS. IN THE CASE OF THE THIRD, THE MILITARY DOES NOT TRUST PERALTA MENDEZ ENOUGH TO ALLOW HIM TO NEGOTIATE WHAT THEY SEE AS A LESS-THAN-DESIRABLE SETTLEMENT.

-- WE HOPE LIEVANO-AGUIRRE WOULD CONVEY TO PRICE THAT A SETTLEMENT NOW, INVOLVING MINOR TERRITORIAL CESSION, IS THE BEST OPPORTUNITY LIKELY FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS FOR BELIZE TO ACHIEVE SELF-DETERMINATION, AND THAT COLOMBIA SUPPORTS A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

-- WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF LIEVANO-AGUIRRE WOULD KEEP THIS CONVERSATION IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE FONMIN'S REACTION ,Y IMMEDIATE CAWLE. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INDEPENDENCE, BOUNDARY DETERMINATION, SELFDETERMINATION, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE277166
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LPFEIFLE:CFC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840084-2194
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771140/aaaabicy.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2cba3816-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 526905
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELIZE NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PBOR, PDEV, GT, UK, BH
To: BOGOTA LONDON MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2cba3816-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009